

Wolf Pack to see extra pay

WASHINGTON (AFPN) – The Defense Department approved implementation of the new hardship duty pay for location (HDP-L) allowance, effective Jan. 1. However, due to a Defense Finance and Accounting Service problem, airmen stationed in Korea will probably not see an increase in their pay until February.

DFAS received a very short notice suspense that they had to create country code tables, according to Master Sgt. Dan Taylor, 8th Fighter Wing Comptroller Flight customer support chief.

“(DFAS) chose a ‘bare-bones’ format that could possibly lead to the potential for erroneous country-code input,” Taylor said. “But once DFAS gets a country-code table created, we should see the pay increase.”

Taylor said the HDP-L pay at Kunsan is currently \$50 monthly. The increased pay, once activated, will be retroactive to Jan. 1.

The pay allowance replaces the \$8-\$22.50 a month Certain Places Pay allowance in most areas. Airmen stationed in designated HDP-L areas, such as Kunsan, will no longer receive CPP, according to Air Force personnel officials.

Unlike CPP, which only included enlisted members and varied rates based on pay grade, the new HDP-L includes all servicemembers – active duty, guard and reserve, officer and enlisted – who serve more than 30 consecutive days in designated locations. Rates vary from \$50, \$100, or \$150, based on location, rather than grade.

Federal civilian employees will receive a hardship differential of 5-10 percent, 15 percent or 20-25 percent of basic pay, respectively. HDP-L is a taxable pay, officials said. An exception

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**Master Sgt. Dan Taylor
8th Comptroller Flight**

applies to airmen performing duty in a designated combat-zone tax-exclusion area.

Members assigned to quality-of-life hardship locations outside the continental United States are eligible for HDP-L. These are locations where living conditions are substantially below the standard most members in the states would generally experience, officials said.

“HDP-L is intended to recognize the extraordinarily arduous living conditions, excessive physical hardship, or unhealthful conditions that exist in a location of assignment,” said Capt. Tad Vannaman, chief of special and incentive pays at the Pentagon.

“The list of qualifying locations is similar to the CPP list, however, there are some locations that qualified for CPP that do not qualify for HDP-L,” Vannaman said. “In these cases, people who were receiving CPP will be ‘grandfathered.’”

Those who are grandfathered will continue receiving CPP until they are reassigned, officials said. Grandfathered locations include Alaska, Singapore, Ghedi, Italy, and Moron, Spain, along with all locations currently qualified for hostile-fire imminent danger pay.

Additionally, any enlisted member permanently assigned to these grandfathered locations before Jan. 1, 2002, will receive the old CPP rate until they are

reassigned. CPP will end for airmen arriving in these locations after Jan. 1, 2002.

Members arriving at an HDP-L location for permanent reassignment are eligible for HDP-L from the day they arrive at the new station, officials said. People performing temporary duty in a designated HDP-L location will not be eligible during the first 30 consecutive days; however, on the 31st day, they will begin receiving HDP-L, retroactive to the first day they reported for the temporary duty.

HDP-L will end for servicemembers leaving the designated location for a temporary period of more than 30 consecutive days, officials said. However, this rule does not apply to accompanied members if their dependents stay in the designated HDP-L area while the member is gone, officials said. HDP-L will restart when the person is again assigned and performing duty in that or another designated location.

The entitlement will stop the day the member departs the station upon permanent reassignment. If rates for designated HDP-L locations are terminated or reduced due to Department of Defense biennial reviews, the termination or reduction will take effect three months after approval is given.

Allowances may be made for short-notice operations, where servicemembers will enter locations with little or no established U.S. or allied military presence and arduous circumstances exist. Emergency designations will be in force for no more than 180 days.

The new HDP-L rates and locations will be listed on the Air Force Personnel Center Web page at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil and at the Air Force Accounting and Finance Office.

For more information, call the 8th CPTF customer service section at 782-

Wolf's Bytes

Happy New Year Wolf Pack. We've had a couple weeks of reprieve, now we're back to work. I hope each of you took some time to relax and refocus for 2001. We're about to enter into final preparation as we gear-up for the Operational Readiness Inspection in March and let's do it safely, Wolf Pack style.

Id like to take this opportunity to thank each of you who went out and did something special for our Korean neighbors during the holidays. Many spent a lot of personal time and effort collecting toys and other necessities for local orphanages and elderly homes throughout Kunsan. In particular, I'd like to commend Tech. Sgt. Ruben Gonzalez who stepped up a couple of months ago and volunteered to spearhead a base wide toy drive to spread holiday cheer with those less unfortunate around us.

We have another short week coming up before we go into our January exercise. Monday is Martin Luther King Jr. Day. In the spirit of the holiday, I encourage everyone to take Monday's downtown tour and explore some of the opportunities available in our host community. Kunsan City Hall has offered to escort some of our people on a walking tour of the community. You'll find more details on how to sign up for this event further in this week's Wolf Pack Warrior.

There will be a luncheon in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. at the Loring Club Wednesday. Lt. Col. Sweetwine, 8th Maintenance Squadron commander, will be the guest speaker. Please see your first sergeants for tickets.

I'm pleased to see that the renovations to the Seabreeze have been competed and we will once again have a movie theater on base. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make this project a reality. The new Bruce Willis film, Unbreakable will air tomorrow at 7 p.m.

Let me close by saying again that we are now nearly 60 days out from the Operational Readiness Inspection. Life is going to begin moving at an even faster pace as organizations start getting ready to prove once again that we are ready to complete our mission.

As the pace picks up, remind yourself to stay focused on the mission and your task at hand. Remember-Safety makes combat sense! A peacetime loss of equipment or life costs us combat power just as if we were at war.

Pride of the Pack



Job: 8th Fighter Wing Judge Advocate assistant NCO in charge of military justice.

Follow-on base: RAF Lakenheath, United Kingdom

Family: Mother, Brenda and sister, Amy

Hometown: Vinemont, Ala.

Hobbies: Volleyball, reading and puppeteering

Words of wisdom: “Life is what happens when you're busy making plans.”

The Pride of the Pack is nominated by his or her commander, first sergeant or supervisor, or any Wolf Pack member, for outstanding value to their unit and dedication to the mission. To nominate a Wolf Pack member, send a nomination to the individual's group commander.



Staff Sgt. Diane White